

ABSTRACT

The present methods feature an overall decrease in transportation costs and catalyst preparation/protection measures. A catalyst comprising a catalytic metal in an oxide form is safely transported in an oxidizing environment to a synthesis site, without any special precautions being taken before and during transport. The catalyst is then reduced with a reducing gas at the synthesis plant. The reduced catalyst is mixed with a stripped hydrocarbon liquid to form a catalyst slurry, wherein the stripped hydrocarbon liquid is substantially free of dissolved oxygen after being contacted with a stripping gas. The mixing can take place in a pre-operational hydrocarbon synthesis reactor, or at least a portion of the slurry can be transferred to at least one synthesis reactor either during operation or at the reactor start-up. A lessening of costs is realized as a coating step to minimize oxidative degradation of the catalyst is not required.